

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 03572 171743Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 171630Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6004
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 03572

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PGOV, XF, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SOME KREISKY OBSERVATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST
SITUATION

REF: VIENNA 3552

1. IN CONNECTION WITH AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH KREISKY
ON ANOTHER MATTER (REFTEL), CHANCELLOR VOLUNTEERED SOME
VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING COMMENT THAT HE FELT US
POSITION VIS-A-VIS ISRAELIS CONTINUES TO BE CORRECT ONE
AND THAT MORE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE WAS DEVELOPING IN ISRAEL
ON VIEWS OF US PRESIDENT. ALSO OF SIGNIFICANCE IS FACT
THAT THERE IS DEVELOPING IN ISRAEL AROUND PERSONS OF
WEIZMAN AND PERES A NEW POLITICAL CONSTELLATION WHICH
OFFERS GREATER PROMISE OF FLEXIBILITY ON KEY ISSUES OF
MIDDLE EAST CONTROVERSY.

2. KREISKY OPINED THAT ISRAELI PENETRATION INTO SOUTH
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LEBANON HAS BEEN LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL AND ISRAELIS FOR
FIRST TIME FACE MAJOR MILITARY-PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS
THERE. IN THIS REGARD, TWO FACTORS SEEM PARTICULARLY
SIGNIFICANT: (1) HEAVILY ARMED PLO FORCES WHICH STILL
OCCUPY TYRE COULD BE DISLODGED BY ISRAELIS BUT ONLY AT
SIGNIFICANT COSTS IN HUMAN LIFE AND ADVERSE WORLDWIDE
MEDIA REACTION AND (2) ISRAELI MILITARY FORCES FACE FOR

THE FIRST TIME PROSPECT OF CONDUCTING ANTI-GUERRILLA
OPERATIONS IN UNFRIENDLY TERRAIN OUTSIDE ISRAEL. SINCE
NAPOLEONIC WARS, NO REGULAR MILITARY FORCES HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFUL AGAINST PARTISANS, ACCORDING TO KREISKY.
3. FOREGOING CITED DEVELOPMENTS, ACCORDING TO KREISKY,
HOLD PROMISE THAT ISRAELI POPULATION AND ELEMENTS OF
LEADERSHIP WILL BECOME EVEN MORE WILLING TO MOVE TOWARD
PEACEFUL SOLUTION. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO
MAINTAIN EFFORT TO OBTAIN DECLARATION OF INTENT FROM
MAJOR MIDDLE EAST POWERS IN NEAR FUTURE. NEGOTIATIONS
THEMSELVES COULD EXTEND OVER RELATIVELY LONG PERIOD OF
TIME ONCE A DECLARATION HAS BEEN AGREED UPON. BORG

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